

The logo features a stylized sun with three concentric circles in shades of yellow and orange, positioned to the left of the text.

Opportunity Neighborhoods

An Opportunity Neighborhood is one where residents, schools, local government, community organizations, faith and business partners work collaboratively to create limitless possibility, ensuring the well-being of children and youth by reducing barriers to opportunity. ON provides a seamless continuum of trauma-informed supports, using data to understand community conditions, measure success, and be accountable for results.

What is the Opportunity Neighborhoods Model?

What Opportunity Neighborhoods (ON) IS:

- A set of practices and strategies to improve efficiency and collaboration between the community, schools, and government.
- A way to address social and racial inequities
- A vehicle to identify barriers for youth and families, and to develop and expand solutions
- An opportunity to link efforts that affect specific neighborhoods with county-wide planning, and vice versa

What ON is NOT:

- A program or uniform set of specific programs for every Neighborhood
- Any one agency or department
- A set of rules or regulations



The three legs of the ON stool



The elements of our “Collective Impact” approach create a cycle of mutually beneficial and reinforcing practices

Simply put, collective impact is the idea that more and better results can be achieved when individuals and organizations pool resources and work together. Many municipalities across the country have put collective impact strategies to work in a variety of settings. When everyone commits to a collective impact approach, the benefits to the community are manifold:

- 1) Inequities can be more easily identified and addressed
- 2) Data can be shared, in order to evaluate effectiveness across multiple organizations
- 3) Gaps and redundancies in services can be identified, thereby improving the use of precious resources
- 4) Partners can more broadly support and promote each others’ services
- 5) Policy makers can be better-informed on community-wide progress and needs
- 6) Communication between front-line, neighborhood-level partners and residents, and the systems administrators and policy makers can be better facilitated

The Five ON Programmatic Focal Areas

1. Family and Community Engagement

Youth and families are empowered to be active leaders and to contribute and benefit fully from a community that supports and encourages them to thrive

2. Connected and Motivated Youth

Youth are plugged in to a comprehensive network of caring adults that encourages and guides their positive academic and personal goals

3. School Readiness, Early Childhood Education, and Literacy

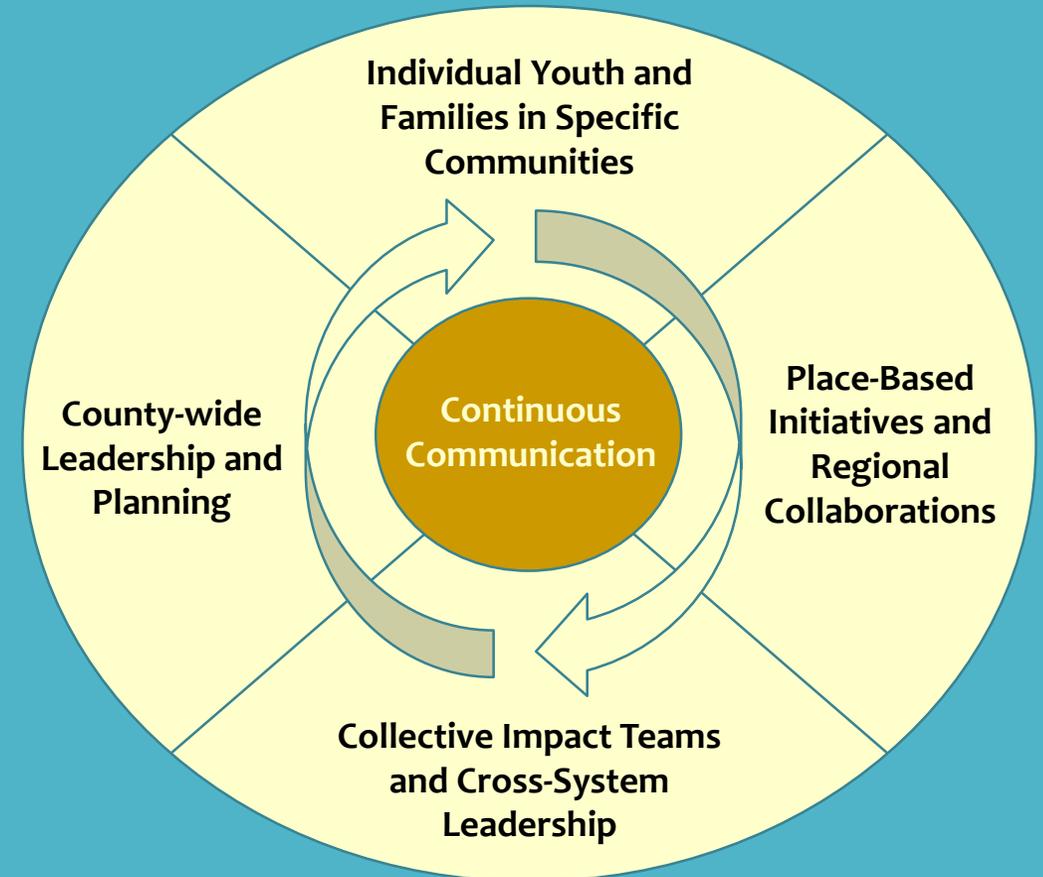
Youth and adults have access to an array of evidence-based, quality resources that prepares them for and addresses barriers to lifelong learning

4. Service Access and Navigation

A continuum of supports allows youth and families to identify their goals for health, safety, stability and self-sufficiency, and to access resources for reaching them

5. Workforce Readiness and Student Career Preparedness

Students and parents are empowered to take advantage of the academic and career preparatory resources that are best tailored to their personal skills and assets



The Two-Generation Approach

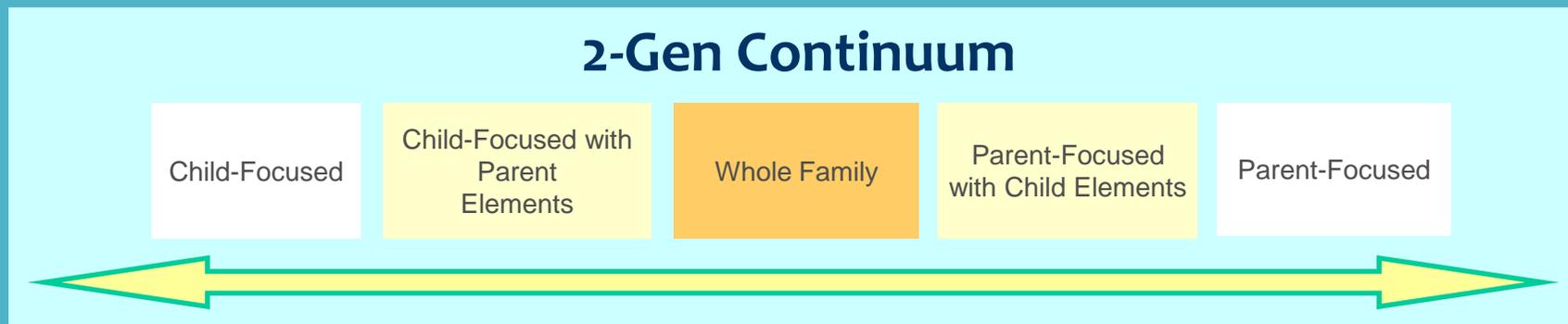
What is a two-generation approach to working with families?

According to ChildTrends: *Whereas many programs tend to arrange parent-oriented and child-oriented programs into separate silos, two-generation programs and policies seek to engage families in ways that knit together these services and address both groups simultaneously. The idea behind the framework is that when opportunities for children and parents are approached jointly, the benefits may be greater than the sum of the separate parts.*

ON strives to move toward the center of a 2-Gen continuum, where parents and children are both moving toward their goals, together.

Examples:

- While parents are taking advantage of a leadership development opportunity at a community meeting, their children are participating in a literacy-enrichment opportunity.
- While youth are being physically active at a sports program, parents gain awareness of healthy cooking on a budget and enjoy samples at a cooking demonstration.
- Parents with children enrolled in a high-quality preschool experience gain guidance on identifying and connecting to community resources.
- Parents attending an Imagination Library reading group with their children are empowered to identify and pursue their own learning goals.



Equity and Opportunity Structures

Identifying and Addressing Barriers to Equitable Opportunity for All Youth and Families

EQUALITY



EQUITY



Consider the access that individual youth and their families have to these critical community and environmental resources. How can we work together to boost access or remove barriers to these opportunity structures?

- Recreation and Community Centers
- Communication/Technology/Wifi Access and Training
- Positive Guidance/Community Support System
- Early Childhood Education
- Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Prevention/Treatment Services
- Healthy Food Access— Food Insecurity & Food Deserts
- Education
- Transportation
- Environmental— Clean air and water, pollutant/lead-free
- Affordable Housing
- Safety
- Justice

Contact



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Mount Vernon

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Reston and Herndon

Cornerstones

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